

the Benthamites. 'To parasites, sycophants, toadeaters, tuft-hunters, and humble companions,' this paper urbanely remarked, 'it will be a book full of comfort **and** instruction in their callings.' Disraeli, it must be said, had given much provocation ; for not only had ridicule of the Benthamites been the express purpose of *Popanillct*, but in *The Young Dulce* itself there is some bitter satire of their 'screw and lever' philosophy. Sarah Disraeli wrote before publication that the book had not been puffed 'in anything to find fault with' ; but this was hardly just to Colburn, who was practising his customary arts with his customary activity and address — and that; in spite of the fact that the author had tried in the preface to deprive him of one of the most potent weapons in his armoury by expressly disclaiming portraiture.

The great mass of my readers (if I have a mass, as I hope,) will attribute the shades that flit about these volumes to any substances they please. That smaller portion of society, who are most competent to decide upon, the subject, will instantly observe, that however I may have availed myself of a trait, or an incident, and often inadvertently, the whole is ideal. To draw caricatures of our contemporaries is not &> very difficult task : it requires only a small portion of talent;, and a great want of courtesy.